GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3355
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
EXEMPTION OF SALES TAX FROM HEPATITIS B VACCINES
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hepatitis-B Virus is a very infectious and dangerous virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof, countries where Hepatitis-B vaccination is compulsory;

(c) whether his ministry has taken up the matter of exempting Hepatitis-B vaccines from sales tax with the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) if so, the response received from the Ministry of Finance in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a)&(b): Hepatitis B Virus, which is a dangerous and infectious microorganism spreads through contaminated blood and blood products, unsterile needles, unsafe sex and from mother (if she is a carrier) to the unborn child. Hepatitis B is now a vaccine-preventable disease.
Hepatitis B Vaccine has been included in the National Immunisation Programme of DPR Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Thailand and Bhutan in South East Asia Region countries.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.